

OCHTHERA EXSCULPTA LOEW, 1862 (INSECTA,
DIPTERA, EPHYDRIDAE):
REQUEST FOR INVALIDATION OF NEOTYPE AND
VALIDATION OF A REDISCOVERED HOLOTYPE.
Z.N.(S.) 2256

By P.J. Clausen (*Department of Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife,
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55108, U.S.A.*)

In his Diptera of North America, Loew (1862) described three species of *Ochthera*, including *Ochthera exsculpta*. This species was described from a single, male specimen collected in Cuba by Poey. Horn & Kahle (1935–1937) indicated that the specimens of Loew's North American species were deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.

2. While conducting a revisional study of the Nearctic, Neotropical and Palaearctic species of the genus *Ochthera* in 1973, I requested the types of all three species of *Ochthera* described by Loew (1862) from the Museum of Comparative Zoology. They responded by loaning me the types of two species, but informed me that the type of *Ochthera exsculpta* was missing. A check with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, which Horn & Kahle (1935–37) mentioned as the deposition site of Poey's Cuban material, again produced no type.

3. Since *Ochthera exsculpta* Loew is a species which is often confused with *Ochthera loreta* Cresson and is often found in the same localities, I felt it necessary for nomenclatural stability to designate a neotype (and two "neoparatypes") for *Ochthera exsculpta* Loew (Clausen, 1977). After publication of my revision and the neotype designation, I returned the specimens to the Museum of Comparative Zoology and was then informed that the holotype was present in their collection. The holotype is from Cuba, Loew Coll., Type 11162, labelled as a male but is actually a female, and is conspecific with the neotype.

4. In compliance with Article 75(f) of the International Code, I am referring this rediscovery of the holotype of *Ochthera exsculpta* to the Commission, and I therefore request the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature to:

- (1) suppress the neotype designation of *Ochthera exsculpta* Loew (1862) made by Clausen, 1977, *Trans. amer. ent. Soc.*, vol. 103: 496, and

- (2) place the specific name *exsculpta* Loew, 1862, as published in the binomen *Ochthera exsculpta* on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, as defined by the holotype.

LITERATURE CITED

- CLAUSEN, P.J. 1977. A revision of the nearctic, neotropical and palaeartic species of the genus *Ochthera*, including one Ethiopian species, and one new species from India. *Trans. amer. ent. Soc.* vol. 103: 451–529.
- HORN, W. & KAHLE, I. 1935–1937. Uber entomologische Sammlungen, Entomologen & Entomo-Museologie. *Ent. Beih.*, Berlin-Dahlem, vol. 2–4: 1–536, 38 pls., 3 figs.
- LOEW, H. 1862. Monographs of the Diptera of North America. Part I. *Smiths. Misc. Coll.*, vol. 6: 1–221.